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ABSTRACT

Confidential surveys reveal that 20 percent of American parents say they have a child at home who is so difficult it is nearly impossible to lead a normal life. Noting that to regain control, parents must first see clearly the many forces at work both around their families and within themselves, this book advises parents how to become better observers of their own thoughts, feelings, and behaviors--a key to becoming more astute observers of their children's public and secret lives. The book presents a realistic and sympathetic look at parenting in today's world, and offers deeply grounded and effective strategies that will help parents deal with difficult, even "impossible" children, find positive paths for development in the face of the toughest challenges, provide alternate views to media violence and the Internet, and raise spiritually grounded children. Chapters in the first part of the book examine the lives of parents, while those in the second offer a child-rearing compass. The chapters are: (1) "When Bad Things Happen to Good Families"; (2) "A Compassionate Look at Parental Responsibility"; (3) "Dealing with an 'Impossible' Child"; (4) "The Dangerous World outside Your Front Door"; (5) "Our Children's Secret Lives"; (6) "Using Intelligent Empathy To Raise a Child with a Difficult Temperament"; (7) "Aspiring To Be an Authority Figure in an Out-of-Control Society"; (8) "Parenting in a Material World"; and (9) "Mastering Television, Video Games, and the Internet." The book's epilogue explores the connection between parenting and good citizenship. The book concludes with a resources section listing pertinent organizations and suggested readings, and a notes section, organized by chapter. (HTH)

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